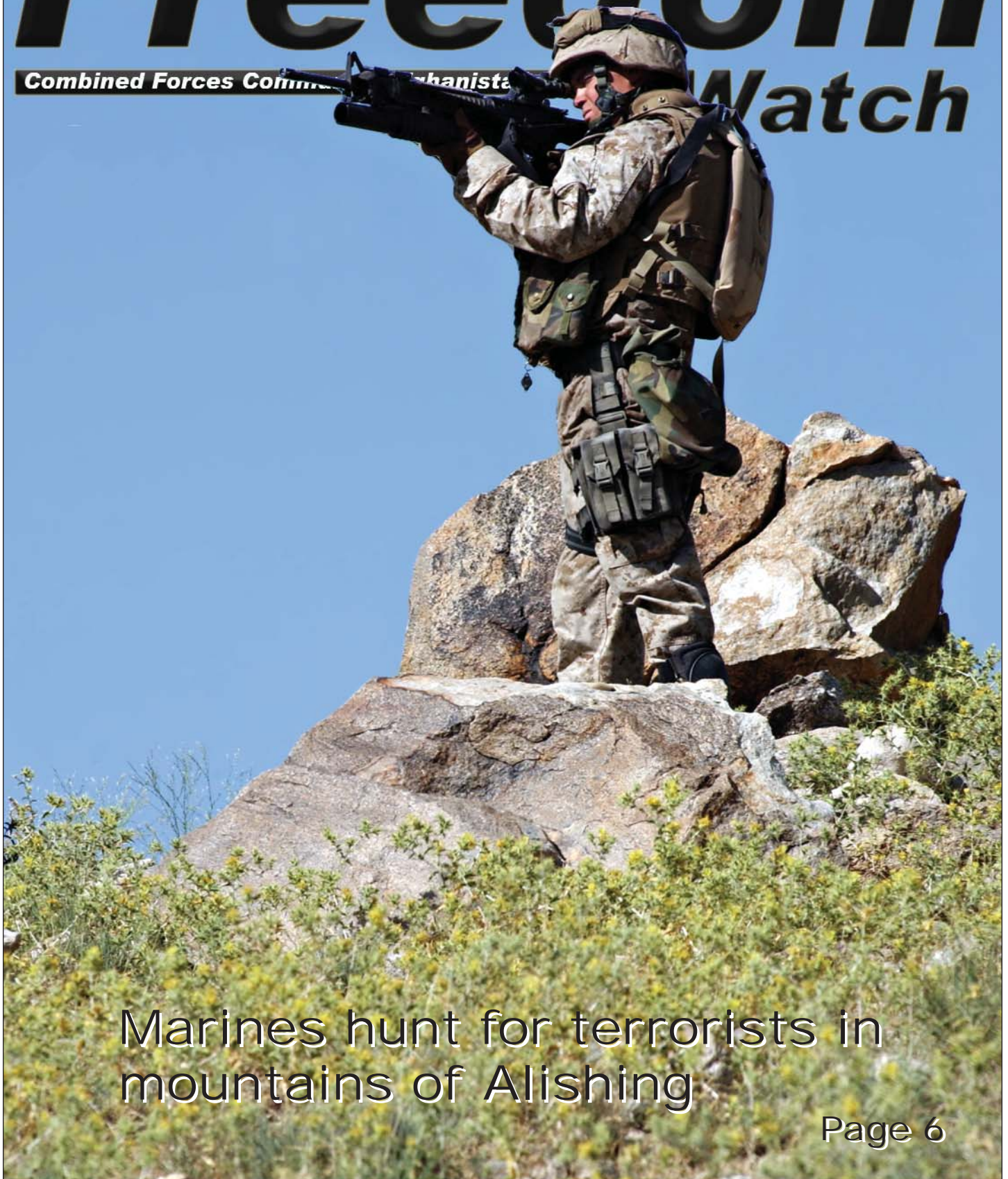


July 18, 2005

# Afghanistan **Freedom** Combined Forces Command Afghanistan Watch



Marines hunt for terrorists in  
mountains of Alishing

Page 6



Photo by Air Force Capt. Mark D. Gibson



Army Staff Sgt. Danny Castleberry, 67th Engineer Detachment and Buddy receive an A-10 orientation from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. Sgt. Castleberry and his team are responsible for expediting the minefield clearance operations by detecting explosives during area and route clearance and minefield extraction.

## Contents



Marine rifleman Cpl. Jared Bland of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment searches for snipers in the mountains of Alisheng June 22.

**See story pages 6-8**

**Page 3:** Mountain Warfare School in Afghanistan



◀ **Page 9:** Afghan medical students learn advanced life support

**Page 11:** Peachtree Roadrace results

**Page 14:** Afghans benefit from livestock health program



**(Cover)** Marine rifleman Cpl. Jared Bland of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment scans for the enemy during a convoy stop in the Alisheng District when suspicious activity in the mountains caused the stop. (Photo by Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie)

## **Afghanistan Freedom Watch**

*Freedom Watch* is the weekly publication of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander - Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry  
Public Affairs Officer - Col. James R. Yonts

*Freedom Watch*, an Army publication, is published each Monday by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circulation is 6,000 copies per week.

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is 0730 Zulu each Friday. All submissions are subject to editing by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Bldg. 425, Room 107, Bagram Airfield. We can be reached at DSN 318-231-3338.

### **Freedom Watch Staff**

Commander - Capt. T.G. Taylor

NCOIC - Sgt. Douglas DeMaio

Editor - Staff Sgt. Ken Denny

Journalists - Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts,

Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie, Spc. Barbara Brown,

Spc. Jason Krawczyk, Spc. Tiffany Levesque,

Spc. Wanda Solomon, Pfc. Vincent Fusco

Visit the CFC-A Web site at  
[www.cfc-a.centcom.mil](http://www.cfc-a.centcom.mil)

Click on the *Freedom Watch* link in the features section to view the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the weekly distribution list, e-mail [freedomwatch@baf.af.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.af.mil).



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Larry Garner

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment learn new techniques to evacuate a casualty in the snow during the winter near Ghazni with the Army Mountain Warfare School.

# Mountain Warfare School trains Soldiers in Afghanistan

By Army Sgt. Tara Teal  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

**QALAT, Afghanistan** – “The cold weather training is the weakest part of the Army and therefore the most useful thing we teach. Soldiers don’t understand the effects of altitude and cold weather on themselves or their equipment,” said Army Staff Sgt. Larry Garner, an Army Mountain Warfare School Instructor. But that is about to change, he said.

Instructors with the Army Mountain Warfare School deployed to Afghanistan for the first time to share their knowledge and expertise in mountaineering and survival in the elements at Forward Operating Bases around the country.

Teaching Soldiers that snow can actually stop bullets, that curves of the land, such as a cliff, can be a benefit to recovery operations rather than a menace, and that all tools have more than one use is all in a days work for the instructors of the Army Mountain Warfare School.

More than 200 Soldiers, in country, have been trained in February in skills including: dressing for cold weather and its effects on equipment, mountaineering and survival

skills, recovering caches from wells and caves, patient evacuation, and stream crossings.

“One of the main focuses in the course is how to live and survive in cold weather seeing how harsh the winters get in some places in Afghanistan,” said Garner, an instructor since 1994 from N.C. “We teach them how to use the snow to their advantage, as leverage in evacuating a casualty or anchor points for repelling.”

Not only infantry Soldiers go through the training. They train explosive ordnance personnel with emphasis on cache recovery operations and techniques. Ranging from medics and cooks to front line Soldiers and even mechanics, the instruction starts everyone with the basics – knot tying. Knowing how to tie knots and understand what they are used for is the basic necessity for any operation using ropes, said Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Bushway, AMWS instructor since 1991 from Maine.

The 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment has been performing missions involving stream crossings, and in the States, Soldiers were taught to use trees to assist in crossing. There is not an abundance of trees in Afghanistan, so they learned how to use rocks and other equipment to

**See Mountain page 5**





(Above) Soldiers of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment learn to perform a 'Prusic ascent' on a cliff near Qalat.

(Below) Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Bushway, an instructor from the Army Mountain Warfare School, teaches Soldiers from the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment the basics of knot tying near Qalat.





**From page 3 Mountain**

their advantage for crossing, explained Garner.

"We go to the units and ask them about their concerns, their missions and the difficulties they have with the environmental elements they go up against," said Bushway. "Then we take what they are concerned about and teach them how to perform the tasks better and safer."

The instruction was worked around the high tempo training schedule of the units, so Garner and Bushway maximized what the Soldiers learned into intensive instructional sessions focusing on the units' mission and needs. The longest training period with a unit was seven days with a combination of the 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Reg. and the 25th Inf. Division at Bagram Airfield, whereas back at the Vermont school-house courses are two weeks long.

"The Soldiers don't have a lot of gear on hand," explained Garner. "We teach them that every tool they have has more than one use- how to be more effective with what they do have, and how to do it safely."

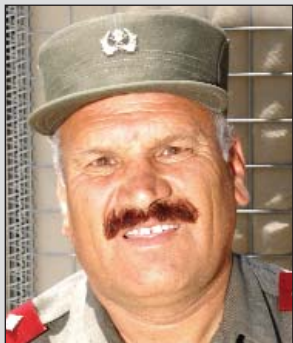
Although Garner and Bushway have headed home, come September five other instructors will be deploying to continue training and giving Soldiers the confidence needed in a combat zone to survive if they ever found themselves in a harsh environment or situation with limited equipment.



**Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion 116th Infantry Regiment. shoot in the winter near Ghazni with the Army Mountain Warfare School to learn how the cold effects weapons systems.**

## Enduring Voices

*What is your favorite food in the chowhall?*



**Afghan National Police  
Col. Jon Khan**

*Parwan Provincial  
Reconstruction Team  
"I enjoy all the American  
food at the chow halls."*



**Egyptian Capt. Amr  
Shaker**

*Egyptian Hospital  
"I enjoy the seafood the  
chow halls serve."*



**U.S. Army Spc. Adam  
Ingle**

*164th Military Police  
Company  
"I like the steak on  
Fridays."*



**U.S. Army Maj. Shawn  
Boland**

*CJTF-76 Personnel  
"I like the ice cream,  
especially the Snickers."*

# The hunt for the enemy



Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie

Marine rifleman Lance Cpl. Brandon Denison of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment watches for the enemy during a convoy stop. The Marines were on their way to Alisheng District to hunt for enemy terrorists.

## 2/3 Marines search for terrorists in hills of Alisheng

By Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**ALISHENG DISTRICT, Afghanistan** – No beds, no bathrooms, no running water, no chow hall and no shade. For the Marines of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, life in the hills of Alisheng District is less than easy.

The 2/3 Marines are patrolling Alisheng, which is a part of Laghman Province and located east of Kabul. Their mission is to root out the enemy who hides high in the mountains of Afghanistan. Although their mission is arduous, all of the members of Fox Co. understand why it is vital they patrol these remote Afghan mountains.

"This is where the bad guys are, so this is where we have to be," said Marine rifleman Pfc. Shane Antley. "It's the price we have to pay."

The 2/3 Marines took over from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in June. Since then, they have quickly learned it takes constant vigilance to stay ahead of the enemy.

"We want to get as much information from the villagers as possible," said Weapons Platoon Commander Marine 1st Lt. Ben Middendorf. "We then use that info to kill or capture

enemy who are undermining our efforts in this country."

When looking for terrorists in Alisheng, a rifle platoon will depart from Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam and set up a mobile base camp in one of the many mountains. Squad-sized patrols will hunt for the terrorists in caves, valleys and towns once base camp is formed. The squads contain rifle-



Marine radio operator Lance Cpl. James Jaggie of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines radios a report.





Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie

men, mortar men, snipers, engineers, communication specialists and Navy corpsmen. Patrol leaders will meet with village elders to gain entry to a village and collect information on suspected enemy in the area. Squads will also recover weapon caches and provide civic aid to Afghan people when possible.

"In my case, I am doing combat patrols with the riflemen by providing fire support," said Marine mortarman Lance Cpl. Coleman Dybul. "At night we provide illumination, and during the day, we'll fire high explosive rounds if we come into contact with the enemy."

In addition to battling the human enemy, the Marines had to deal with the harsh environment; insects, steep inclines, rock slides, and narrow, poorly built dirt roads are risks that the Marines have to be aware of at all times.

Even more dangerous than these hazards for the Marines is the heat, which routinely climbs into 100-plus degree range.

"There's no getting away from it," said Marine engineer Pfc. Kenneth Carvaugh.

"Yesterday, (June 22) the sun was above us, and there were no trees around. It was brutal. I found out later that

it was 115 degrees. It's hell."

As time goes by in the mountains, the Marines of 2/3 know they will have to avoid complacency and being out on their own makes awareness a top priority in the mountain ranges, said Antley.

"Every little thing - ridge lines, rock piles, pot holes, people - you have to be on constant alert and watch everything," he said.

However difficult life may be for the Marines of Fox Co., they still manage to find things to like about their experience.

"It's not bad sleeping out here," said Carvaugh, a Jacksonville, Fla., native.

"Back at the forward operating base, you wake up sweating in a tent. Here you have the wind at night."

Antley also likes the field as compared to the FOB.

"Time goes by quicker," he said. "We patrol all day, come back, get a few hours of sleep and go back out. At the FOB, the days seem to draw out."

For many Marines searching these hills day and night, the trade off is worth it.

"It's hard on your body; it wears you out," said Dybul. "But at the same time, it feels good to be here because you are helping out."

**(Above)** Marine mortarman Lance Cpl. Coleman Dybul of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment looks through the sight of a 60 mm mortar tube in Alisheng June 22.

**(Right)** Marine rifleman Cpl. Jared Bland and mortarman Lance Cpl. Chad Urban both of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment search for snipers hiding in the mountains of Alisheng June 22.





Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie



Navy Corpsman Seaman Argel Sierra of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Regiment gives an intravenous fluids bag to Marine rifleman Lance Cpl. Wade Trotchie in Alisheng District June 23. Temperatures can climb to more than 120 degrees.



Heavy Weapons Platoon leader Marine 1st Lt. Ben Middendorf of Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment holds a meeting with village elders.



(Above) Marine rifleman Cpl. Jesse Showaltergarcia of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Regiment takes a break.

(Left) Marine engineer Lance Cpl. Kendall Boyd of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment sleeps outside in the hills.



# Afghan medical students take lessons in advanced life support

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** – Fifth-year students from the school of medicine at Kandahar University here completed a three-day course on Advanced Trauma Life Support conducted by the university, the Kandahar Hospital, and the Regional Development Zone June 27.

ATLS is a standard trauma evaluation designed so any medical facility can treat a trauma patient and is taught worldwide, said Dr. (Maj.) Michael Woll, a general surgeon with Medical Detachment A, 249th General Hospital, Ft. Gordon, Ga., who is among the eight physicians who taught the class.

However, the Afghan ability to handle trauma patients is virtually nonexistent, said Woll. The local hospitals of Regional Command South and East are limited in their ability to treat trauma patients.

The students learned how to diagnose and treat different types of trauma in children and adult men and women. Also, they learned how to treat injuries due to burns and cold, surgical skills, and conducted triage scenarios.

Woll performed a moulage scenario where a simulated trauma patient was treated both incorrectly and correctly. Students had the opportunity to discuss with Woll during a lecture the things he shouldn't have done and how to fix them.

ATLS teaches doctors to evaluate patients in an alphabetical sequence: airway, breathing, circulation (hemorrhage control), deficit (neurological treatment), and exposure (removing of excess clothing).

Students learning this evaluation must strictly adhere to the

order of steps, said Woll. To properly evaluate a patient, one step must always come before the next.

The students have an active role in class participation, asking questions and assisting in translating the instructor's lectures.

"The students have been great, they ask a lot of questions," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Dewayne Deener, the noncommis-

sioned officer in charge of the Kandahar RDZ. "They're very willing to learn, even in 118-degree heat."

The Kandahar RDZ organized the event with the university, and paid for and provided logistical support. The combined effort cost \$25,000 and two months to get teaching materials together.

In addition, Maj. Gen. Raziq Sheirzai, the border police chief of Kandahar Province, provided the use of his facility for the event after having an electrician improve the power supply. He also provided lunch for the three days.

Sheirzai became involved with the training after a good friend of his died of a gunshot wound after being treated by the doctors of Kandahar Hospital several months ago.

"He wanted to see the Afghan medical community grow and not have [the Coalition] constantly taking care of the people," said Woll.

The central goal of the class was to teach combat health support and the ability to take care of the critically wounded, said Deener.

The greater capacity the people have to take care of

their own, the less they'll have to rely on [the Coalition].

"We're planning to have a trauma center in Kandahar City at some point," said Deener.

With the successful management of multiple injured trauma



Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

**Army Dr. (Maj.) Michael Woll, left, a general surgeon with Medical Detachment A, 249th General Hospital, performs a moulage scenario with Army Sgt. Zachery S. Elkins, with the Kandahar Regional Development Zone June 25.**



patients comes the ability to teach future generations of medical students, said Woll.

"ATLS was the most influential thing I did in my early training," said Woll. "In the end, you can apply this stuff to any patient if you know the ABCs."

Many of the 60 students who became certified from this training will go on to practice at the local hospitals, Wells said.

The only delay in the training came the morning of June 26 when a 12-year-old girl and a 6-year-old girl came in to Kandahar Hospital after being injured by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The doctors here responded upon notification and were back on site later in the day.

"All of this would be for nothing if it weren't for the availability of the doctors and their willingness to teach," said Deener.



**(Above)** Dr. (Maj.) Andrew Piasecki, left, and Dr. (Maj.) Michael Woll, an orthopedic surgeon with Medical Detachment A, 249th General Hospital, Ft. Gordon, Ga., assists in the moulage scenario by applying pressure to Elkins' simulated leg wound as Woll removes his excess clothing June 25.

**(Below)** Maj. Naomi Childres, chief of anesthesia for Medical Detachment A, 249th General Hospital, Ft. Gordon, Ga., begins her class on how to intubate a trauma patient in an emergency June 26







# Peachtree Road Race 2005

CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

Photos and Photo Illustration by Sgt. Mathew MacRoberts

## 2005 Top Runners, Afghanistan

Category	Name/Title/Hometown	Age	Time
18-24 Male	Melford Garcia, Fort Lewis, WA	24	36:42
18-24 Female	Melissa Parish, Honolulu, HI	24	48:44
25-32 Male	Joel Torres, Anthony, NM	26	39:50
25-32 Female	Meghan Hughes, Cockeysville, MD	26	42:40 Winner
33-39 Male	Marc LeNoble, France	34	35:30 Winner
33-39 Female	Jill Cahill, Woodbridge, VA	36	54:50
40+ Male	Tony Davis, Chattanooga, TN	44	41:52
40+ Female	Tamra Shattuck, Charleston, SC	40	55:30

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Marc Lenoble and Meghan Hughes won the men's and women's divisions of the first Peachtree Road Race held on Bagram Airfield July 3.

The field of contestants included runners from France, Germany, Republic of South Korea, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Puerto Rico, Panama, and United States.

"I've never run the Peachtree and have always wanted to since I was on the track team at (University of North Carolina) Chapel Hill," said Meghan Hughes, from Cockeysville, Maryland. "When I get back, I really want to run it in Atlanta. Thank you for bringing it to us."

Hughes was among more than 500 servicemembers and civilians who ran the 10 kilometer race. The runners left the starting line at 5:30 am on Sunday, July 3 with the temperature in mid 80s.

The Peachtree Road Race Time Group 13 was officially started in Atlanta at 9 pm EST on Saturday, July 2, 2005. While stationed in Afghanistan, Col. Tom

MacKenzie, who had the idea to host the Peachtree here. MacKenzie made the announcement to start. "As the (public affairs officer), I wanted to bring the Peachtree's Fourth of July tradition to our Soldiers there. They have a hard job to do and the simple celebrations that we take for granted here are so appreciated. At least for one day, I wanted my fellow U.S. servicemen and women to remember a little bit of home and to share this American experience with our fellow Coalition forces." Standing at the official Peachtree Street Start Line in Atlanta, MacKenzie spoke to Villasana via cell phone and said, "On your mark, get set, go!"

The male and female winner of each age group received a trophy and a DVD player. The overall male and female winners each received a Peachtree VIP shirt and a \$50 gift card or use at the local AAFES Post Exchange.

"Our goal was to make this event fun and as runner-friendly as the race in

Atlanta." said Cpl. Tim Villasana, the Peachtree-Afghanistan race director. "Relatively speaking, I think we accomplished that and more. Since the 4th of July is just another day here, the Peachtree was our only 4th of July celebration. After today, every day is Groundhog Day again," referring to the popular movie by that name.

In June, The Atlanta Track Club had sent the following support materials to Afghanistan: a Peachtree Road Race Start banner, 500 custom-made Peachtree Road Race-Afghanistan Division t-shirts, race numbers and 50 volunteer shirts. The club also shipped official awards for the first place overall-man and woman.

Julia Emmons, the track club's executive director since 1984, said that she spoke for 10,000 members saying "The Atlanta Track Club is honored to be able to support the first Peachtree Road Race in Afghanistan as a gift to our U.S. servicemen and women serving there this 4th of July."



# Task Force Cerberus helps victims of Syed River flood

Photos by Army Sgts. Matthew MacRoberts, 20th Public Affairs Detachment and Christopher Kaufmann, Combat Camera  
Photo illustration by Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts



1st Lt. Darrell Pearman, a civil affairs officer from Task Force Eagle, hands out school supplies to children displaced after their village was flooded by the Syed River.



Sgt. Christopher Camper, from TF Eagle civil affairs, gives pencils out while an Afghan police officer keeps the children in order and calm.

Maj. Dwight Rickard, a medical entomologist with Task Force Victory, talks with a village elder about problems with scorpions, camel spiders and other dangerous wildlife found in the camp.



Spc. Christine Prescott, a food service worker with the 690th Military Police Company, explains to two girls that she has no more gifts.



Men from individual households bring back supplies to their tents.

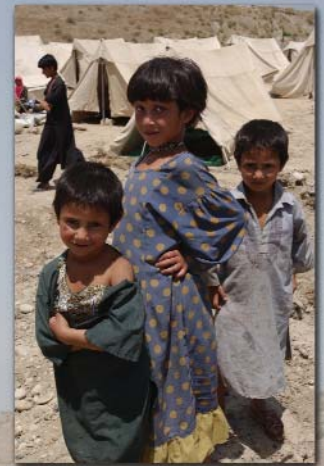


Prescott and a soldier from the Republic of South Korea unload relief supplies for victims of the Syed River flood.





**Villagers start to line up to receive civic assistance materials from service members stationed at Bagram Airfield.**



**Children wait while their parents receive food and water from Coalition troops.**



**Camper is surrounded by boys eager to receive pens and pencils from the soldiers.**

**A man stands and watches soldiers distribute toys to children.**



**While troops were distributing assistance, a boy was playing and cut his scalp. Dr. (Col.) Brian Rees, from TF Cerberus cleans the and bandages the wound.**

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



**Long after the sun has set, Task Force Storm Soldiers continue maintenance on a CH-47D. To keep the aircraft flying, maintenance continues around the clock.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick L. Mims  
D Company 3rd Battalion 158th Aviation  
Regiment (Task Force Storm)*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



# Afghans benefit from livestock health program

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR CITY, Afghanistan** – A class on animal welfare coordinated with the national program of public health was conducted at the Provincial Reconstruction Team for the staff of the agricultural department for Kandahar Province June 4.

Dr. Nilda Barea, a doctor of veterinary medicine with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducted the class as part of Kandahar Province's five-year plan.

Barea, the agricultural issues advisor to the PRT, showed the staff how an effective national livestock health program could improve the health and well-being of not only the livestock, but the people as well.

"We're trying to build the capacity of their programs," said Barea.

Included in the plan are better animal health and veterinary services, diagnostic and investigative operations, and field and clinical operations.

"This is quite important," said Barea.

"They need to know how to teach people better health standards."

The plan proposes legislation and development of strategies and policies for controlling ecologically serious livestock ailments such as foot and mouth disease, a contagious viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals prevalent throughout Asia.

Foot and mouth disease, though not contagious to humans, has a 24 to 48

hour incubation period and causes ailments such as anorexia, lameness and agalactia (the inability to produce milk), said Barea.

Outbreak sources include contaminated garbage and other infected animals.

A national animal health center responsible for synthesizing and analyzing livestock disease and other health data would increase the capability to diagnose livestock and collect samples, creating a collection of background information about outbreak areas.

With this field data, modern laboratories and proper education, Afghans can also conduct clinical operations to

identify gaps in the national livestock health system and determine options to reduce these gaps.

One such gap is the lack of issuing health certificates, said Barea. Because none are issued for most of the animals here, diseases can spread easily and quickly throughout different regions.

This is a serious problem, especially for the nomadic Kuchi tribe, who herd sheep and are almost entirely dependent on them for food and trade.

When the tribe moves from place to place and across borders, their animals have the potential to pick up livestock disease.

The new health program is an opportunity to represent the country in terms of animal health status, including issuing health certificates that can be recognized by trade partners.

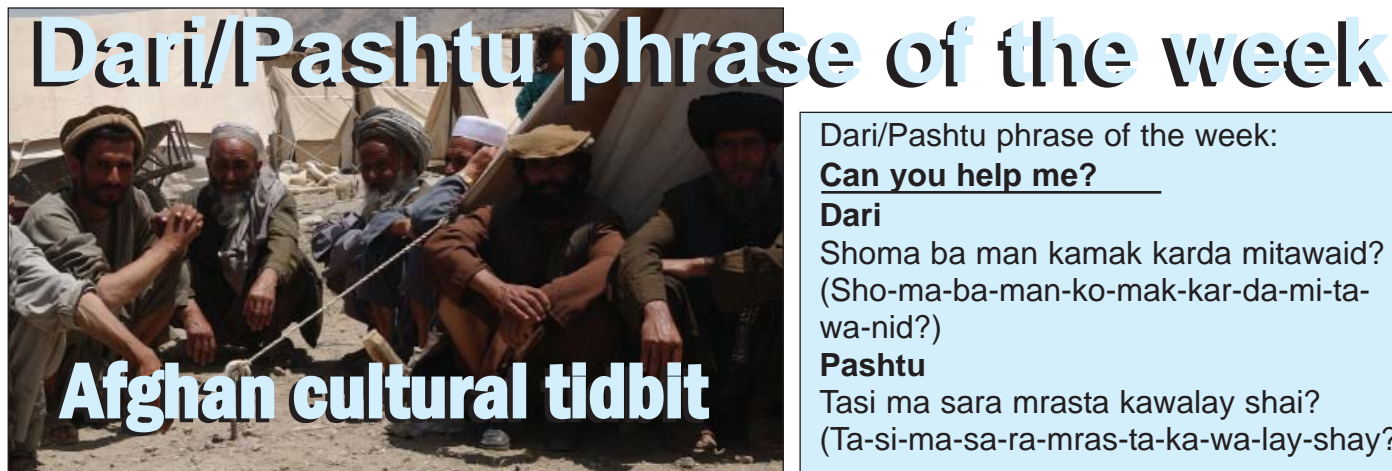
Animals are a vital link to the health, welfare and nutrition of Afghanistan.

Agriculture is a top priority for the Afghan government's five-year plan, said Barea. Reconstruction and development must go hand in hand, with public health as a priority.

"If we have healthy animals," said Barea, "we'll have healthy people."

**"If we have healthy animals, we'll have healthy people."**

Dr. Nilda Barea



## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week

### Afghan cultural tidbit

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:

**Can you help me?**

**Dari**

Shoma ba man kamak karda mitawaid?  
(Sho-ma-ba-man-ko-mak-kar-da-mi-ta-wa-nid?)

**Pashtu**

Tasi ma sara mrasta kawalay shai?  
(Ta-si-ma-sa-ra-mras-ta-ka-wa-lay-shay?)

***There has never been an accurate population census taken in Afghanistan, but the most common estimate is approximately 26 million. A staggering 5 million Afghans – one out of five people – are thought to be in refugee camps along the country's borders and in neighboring nations. Pakistan has given refuge to 3 million Afghan refugees.***

(Source: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/aeco.html>)



# Twenty-four tractors tilling the turf

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** – In a joint effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team and Afghan contractors, 24 farm tractors are to be donated to the province by the end of July.

The tractor purchase and distribution program is an initiative to help shuras or village councils, work together and hold each other accountable for humanitarian efforts.

Jeff Sanders, the USDA advisor for Regional Command South, said the idea was drawn up when Maj. Charles Blomquist, the deputy commander of the Kandahar PRT assigned to the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Riverdale, Md., suggested buying and donating tractors to remote, unstable districts after hearing of a similar program in Oruzgan Province.

As a result, the Department for International Development, a British agency, provided 24 tractors, ready to be donated to the shuras following a contracted agreement with district leaders.

"This started as strictly an agricultural endeavor," said Sanders. "It's ended up being much more. I'm really excited about it."

One of the major problems in traditional farming has been improper seedbed preparation in making the soil

ready for planting.

Each tractor is equipped with a plow and a spring-toothed harrow. This will make a good seed bed, better planting and seed-to-soil contact, all of which will result in improved yields for cultivation in less time.

A major obstacle in making the plan work, however, is discouraging corruption in the use of the tractors. A contracted agreement between the shuras and the Coalition will establish ground rules for use, including agreements to not utilize the tractors for cultivating poppies.

It will also be the responsibility of the shura to provide monetary funds for regular maintenance, which in theory, will encourage them to keep funds in reserve for such things.

"If they want the tractors, they have to work together," said Sanders. "That's the beauty of it."

(Abdul) will develop a draft of the contract the district leaders will sign and pass it on to the PRT for review. When approved, the contract will go before the shura.

Once signed, the district leaders will come to the PRT and, following a formal ceremony, pick up their tractors within the next two weeks.

"We're giving the oxen a much-needed rest," said Sanders.

# Battles near Kandahar kill three enemy

CJTF-76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Afghan and U.S. troops patrolling northeast of Kandahar killed two enemies, wounded another and captured two after being attacked with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades today.

Eleven other individuals were questioned in relation to the attack and were released.

On June 30, U.S. forces were attacked with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades by approximately 10 enemies traveling in two vehicles and two motorcycles northwest of Kandahar. The ensuing firefight resulted in one enemy killed and four detained for questioning. All four were later released.

"We stand ready, aside the Afghan armed forces, to defeat these terrorists at every turn," said Army Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, a spokesperson for Combined Joint Task Force-76. "Where these criminals want to oppress and terrorize the Afghan people, we hope this nation will one day enjoy the fruits of liberty and prosperity."

# IED turned into U.S. Forces after two others explode

CJTF-76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**

–An Afghan turned in an unexploded improvised explosive device to Afghan National police after two other devices detonated near a girl's school north of Forward Operating Base Salerno June 29.

The explosions caused no injuries but damaged the school.

"These devices are the tools of terror used by criminals in their ruthless pursuit of their oppressive ideals," said

Army Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, Combined Joint Task Force-76 spokesperson. "That an Afghan citizen turned over the location of these devices to Afghan police clearly shows that the country is united and confident in its stand against these brutal oppressors."

The third IED was rendered harmless by explosive ordnance personnel and destroyed at a safe location near the site.

# Reality Check

By Army Staff  
Sgt. Bryon Dorman





***Freedom Watch***  
***July 18, 2005***



Honor  
Live up to the Army Values